

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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JOHN ORT, TOP STATE HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICIAL, TO SERVE AS TRIAL COURT SECURITY SPECIALIST FOR MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

LANSING, MI, May 18, 2005 – John Ort of Charlotte, a Michigan State Police Commander and Deputy State Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, will serve as the Michigan Supreme Court’s first Trial Court Security Specialist, the Court announced today. He will begin in his new position on June 20.

Ort, who has served with the State Police since 1979, will develop security protocols for Michigan trial courts and advise judges and court staff on security issues, said State Court Administrator Carl L. Gromek. Ort, who has extensive experience in applying for and managing grants, will also be responsible for grant applications for federal and state funds for security programs, Gromek said.

“Since March 11, when a defendant grabbed a gun from a sheriff’s deputy and went on a shooting rampage in an Atlanta courthouse, court officials throughout the country have focused on improving security,” Gromek said. “As someone who coordinated Michigan’s Homeland Security program, John Ort has a wide range of expertise on issues ranging from terrorism to infrastructure vulnerability assessment to natural disasters. He has the sophistication we need to address trial courts’ security concerns.”

Ort, who holds the rank of Captain, is the Commander of the State Police Emergency Management Division. He is the Governor’s authorized representative for Presidentially-declared disasters and is the State Coordinating Officer for state and local disaster recovery projects. He has served as chairman of the Michigan Homeland Security Advisory Council, the Michigan Homeland Security Task Force, the State Emergency Response Commission, and the Michigan Hazard Mitigation Coordinating Council.

Ort’s accomplishments include statewide implementation of the Amber Alert program for missing children. He also brought the state’s 111 local emergency management programs onto the Michigan Public Service Communications System – the only communications system to function in the affected areas of Michigan during the August 2003 multi-state blackout. He has developed a number of web-based applications, including a Critical Incident Management System, which received a 2004 award from the National Association of State Chief Information Officers.

His professional associations include the National Emergency Management Association, the Michigan Emergency Management Association, and the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. He is also a member of the Council of State Governments, where he served on a national work group that recently researched and published a report on “The Impact of Terrorism on State Law Enforcement.”

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